IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Fig. 5 to remove the following: (i) the reference numeral "90", and its associated lead line, (ii) the reference numerals "98" at two instances, and their associated lead lines, , and (iii) the reference numeral "108", and its associated lead line as shown in red ink in the ATTACHMENT.

Please amend Fig. 6 to remove the following: (i) the reference numeral "90", and its associated lead line, and (ii) the reference numeral "108", and its associated lead line as shown in red ink in the ATTACHMENT.

Please amend Fig. 12 to remove the following: (i) the reference numeral "26a", and its associated lead line, and (ii) the reference numeral "32a", and its associated lead line as shown in red ink in the ATTACHMENT.

Please amend Fig. 16 to remove the following: (i) the reference numeral "238a", and its associated lead line, and (ii) the reference numeral "238b", and its associated lead line as shown in red ink in the ATTACHMENT.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-18 and 34-41.

Please amend claims 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, and 30 as set forth below.

Please add new claims 42-52 as set forth below.

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

19. (Currently amended) An external bone/joint fixation device comprising:

a frame component ~~defined by~~ having a posterior portion and an anterior portion disposed transverse to said posterior portion, said frame component including a plurality of first fixation bores ~~each of which is configured to receive a wire fixator that is adapted to receive an end of a fixation wire~~ defined in said posterior portion; ~~and~~

a cross bar ~~component~~ assembly attachable to said anterior portion of said frame component, said cross bar assembly including a cross bar component fixable at any one of a plurality of positions in relation to said anterior portion, said cross bar component ~~and~~ having a plurality of second fixation bores ~~each of which is configured to receive a wire fixator that is adapted to receive another end of the fixation wire, said cross bar and said frame component providing controlled compression of a bone or joint retained by fixation wires tied to said frame component and said cross bar~~;

a posterior angulation assembly attachable to said posterior portion of said frame component at any one of a plurality of positions in relation to said posterior portion; and

a fixation wire extending from said posterior angulation assembly to said cross bar component.

20. (Currently amended) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said cross bar component is rotatable about a longitudinal axis of said cross bar component.

21. (Currently amended) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said cross bar assembly further includes ~~further comprising~~ first and second cross bar holders each configured for attachment to said anterior portion of said frame component and for receipt of an end of said cross bar.

22. (Currently amended) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 21, wherein each cross bar holder is configured to clamp against an end of the cross bar component when the cross bar holder is mounted to said anterior portion of said frame component.

23. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said anterior portion extends above a first plane defined by said posterior portion.

24. (Currently amended) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said posterior angulation component ~~configured to be received on said posterior portion and including~~ defines a wire retention bore ~~adapted~~ configured to receive a fixator for receipt of a portion of ~~another end of~~ the fixation wire.

25. (Currently amended) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 24, wherein said posterior angulation component further defines a fastener bore alignable with any one of said plurality of first fixation bores defined in ~~is adjustably positionable on~~ said posterior portion of said frame component.

26. (Currently amended) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 25, further comprising a fastener extending through said fastener bore and a first of said plurality of first fixation bores defined in ~~wherein said posterior angulation component is adjustably positionable on~~ said posterior portion of said frame component ~~through attachment thereof in one or more of said first fixation bores~~.

27. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, further comprising an elevator configured to extend about a bottom portion of said frame component and allowing access to a sole of the foot.

28. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 27, wherein said elevator is adapted to evenly distribute pressure applied thereto.

29. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 27, wherein said elevator is arcuate shaped.

30. (Currently amended) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein:

said frame component ~~is formed as one piece~~ forms a continuous loop,

said posterior portion defines a first part of said continuous loop, and

said anterior portion defines a second part of said continuous loop.

31. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, further comprising calibration markings disposed on said posterior portion.

32. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said frame is fabricated from at least one of a composite material, a polymer, a metal alloy and a shape memory material.

33. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said frame is fabricated from a radiolucent material.

Claims 34-41 (canceled).

42. (New) A fixation device, comprising:

a frame having (i) a posterior portion defining a first plane, and (ii) an anterior portion defining a second plane which is non-coplanar in relation to said first plane;

a cross bar assembly configured to be coupled to said anterior portion of said frame component;

a posterior angulation assembly configured to be coupled said posterior portion of said frame component; and

a fixation member extending from said posterior angulation assembly to said cross bar component.

43. (New) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:

said cross bar assembly includes a cross bar component, and

said cross bar component is fixable to said anterior portion of said frame component at any one of a plurality of positions.

44. (New) The fixation device of claim 43, wherein said cross bar component is rotatable between (i) a first position of said plurality of positions, and (ii) a second position of said plurality of positions.

45. (New) The fixation device of claim 43, wherein:

said cross bar assembly further includes a first holder and a second holder,

said first holder is securable to a first part of said anterior portion of said frame component,

said second holder is securable to a second part of said anterior portion of said frame component,

said first holder is configured to clamp a first end of said cross bar component, and

said second holder is configured to clamp a second end of said cross bar component.

46. (New) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein said posterior angulation component is configured to be coupled said posterior portion of said frame component at any one of a plurality of positions along said posterior portion.

47. (New) The fixation device of claim 46, wherein:

said posterior portion of said frame component defines a plurality of first bores,

said posterior angulation component defines a fastener bore, and

said fastener bore is alignable with any one of said plurality of first bores.

48. (New) The fixation device of claim 47, further comprising a fastener extending through said fastener bore and a first of said plurality of first fixation bores defined in said posterior portion of said frame component.

49. (New) The fixation device of claim 47, wherein:

said posterior angulation component further defines a wire retention bore, and

said wire retention bore is configured to receive a fixator component therein.

50. (New) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:

said frame component forms a continuous loop,

said posterior portion of said frame component defines a first part of said continuous loop, and

said anterior portion of said frame component defines a second part of said continuous loop.

51. (New) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:

said first plane and said second plane define an angle Θ, and

$70° \leq \Theta \leq 110°$.

52. (New) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:

said first plane and said second plane define an angle Θ, and

Θ is approximately equal to 90°.